

CLAIMS

1. A preventive or therapeutic agent for pancreatitis comprising an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist as an active ingredient.

5 2. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 in which the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

10 3. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 2 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

15 4. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 3 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor.

20 5. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 3 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor.

25 6. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to ~~any of claims 2 to 5~~ in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

7. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 4 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

25 8. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 5 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

30 9. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to ~~any of claims 2 to 4~~ in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

35 10. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 9 in which the humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

A 11. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ in which the pancreatitis is

acute pancreatitis.

12. An agent for suppressing pancreatic edema said agent comprising an IL-6 antagonist as an active ingredient.

5 13. An agent for suppressing pancreatic edema said  
agent comprising an antibody directed against IL-6  
receptor as an active ingredient.

14. A method of preventing or treating pancreatitis which method comprises administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist at an amount effective to prevent or treat pancreatitis to the subject in need of such prevention or treatment.

15. The preventive or therapeutic method according  
to claim 14 in which the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody  
15 directed against IL-6 receptor.

16. The preventive or therapeutic method according to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

20 17. The preventive or therapeutic method according  
to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6  
receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against human  
IL-6 receptor.

18. The preventive or therapeutic method according  
25 to claim 16 in which the antibody directed against IL-6  
receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against mouse  
IL-6 receptor.

19. The preventive or therapeutic method according  
to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6  
receptor is a recombinant antibody.

20. The preventive or therapeutic method according to claim 17 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

35 21. The preventive or therapeutic method according  
to claim 18 in which the monoclonal antibody directed  
against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

22. The preventive or therapeutic method according

to claim 15 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

23. The preventive or therapeutic method according  
5 to claim 22 in which the humanized antibody directed  
against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

24. The preventive or therapeutic method according to claim 14 in which the pancreatitis is acute pancreatitis.

10 25. A method of suppressing pancreatic edema in  
pancreatitis which method comprises administering an IL-6  
antagonist to the subject.

15 26. A method of suppressing pancreatic edema which method comprises administering an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor at an amount effective to prevent or treat pancreatic edema to the subject in need of suppressing pancreatic edema.

27. The use of an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist  
for the production of a preventive or therapeutic agent  
20 for pancreatitis.

28. The use according to claim 27 in which the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

29. The use according to claim 28 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

30. The use according to claim 29 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor.

31. The use according to claim 29 in which the  
30 antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal  
antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor.

32. The use according to any of claims 28 to 31 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

35 33. The use according to claim 30 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

34. The use according to claim 31 in which the monoclonal antibody directed against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

5 35. The use according to any of claims 28 to 30 in which the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor.

10 36. The use according to claim 35 in which the humanized antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

37. The use according to any of claims 27 to 36 in which the pancreatitis is acute pancreatitis.

15 38. The use of an IL-6 antagonist for the production of an agent for suppressing pancreatic edema in pancreatitis.

39. The use of antibody directed against IL-6 receptor for the production of an agent for suppressing pancreatic edema in pancreatitis.

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